

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/517,693

Examiner

Kiley Stoner

Applicant(s)

KRAUS, GERHARD

Art Unit

1725

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/3/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted:
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                           | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                                           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>8/23/07</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                                         |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                        |
|                                                                                                            | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                                                     |

*Kiley Stoner* 8/23/07

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Duncan on 8/23/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 3 "joining" has been replaced with --welding--.

In claim 1, line 9 "workstation" has been replaced with --work station--.

In claim 1, line 9 "joining" has been replaced with --welding--.

In claim 1, line 10 "joining" has been replaced with --welding--.

In claim 1, line 10 "for" has been deleted.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest either alone or in combination a machining unit as recited by claim 1, particularly one or more machining stations each with robots including a robot with a welding tool; and at least one turning station having

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at least two work stations for carrying out different operations simultaneously, the turning station having at least two multiaxially movable turning units arranged next to one another with gripping tools and with movable turning units working areas, which intersect each other at the workstations, one work station being a workpiece support and another workstation being a joining station, the robot with the welding tool being arranged with a range of operation such that the welding tool at the joining station performs joining operations at the joining station.

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest either alone or in combination a machining unit as recited by claim 15, particularly a plurality of welding machining stations having multiaxially movable welding robots with a welding tool head for welding the workpieces, each welding robot moving to form a defined working area; a plurality of turning stations having at least two multiaxially movable turning units having a gripping tool head, one turning station being arranged adjacent to another turning station, each turning unit moving to form a defined working area, the working area of the turning unit overlapping the working area of the welding robot to define at least two work stations, one work station being a workpiece pick up work station and another work station being a welding work station, the turning unit picking up the workpiece at the workpiece pick up work station and transferring the workpiece to the welding work station; a manual or automatic feed means for presenting the workpieces to the plurality of turning stations; and a manual or automatic removal means for removing workpieces.

The prior art of record does not teach or suggest either alone or in combination a machining unit as recited by claim 17, particularly a first turning station having a first

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multiaxially movable turning unit with a first gripping tool, the first multiaxially movable turning unit being movable to define a first movable turning unit work volume; a second turning station having a second multiaxially movable turning unit with a second gripping tool, the second movable turning unit being to define a second movable turning unit work volume, the first turning station being arranged next to the second turning station, the first movable turning unit work volume overlapping with the second movable turning unit work volume to define a first work station for picking up the workpiece and a second work station for welding the workpiece, the first turning unit or the second turning station picking up the workpiece at the first work station and transferring the workpiece to the second work station; a welding station having a multiaxially movable welding robot, the movable welding robot having a welding tool for welding the workpiece, the welding robot moving to define a welding work volume, the welding work volume overlapping the second movable turning unit work volume at the second work station; a manual or automatic feed means for presenting the workpieces to the first turning station.

The term "welding" refers to the coalescence of two or more pieces. Additionally, the term "welding" does not refer to temporarily clamping or gripping two separate pieces together.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kiley Stoner whose telephone number is 571-272-1183. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday (9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jonathan Johnson can be reached on 571-272-1177. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

 8/23/07  
Kiley Stoner

Primary Examiner A.U. 1725